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Dated: May 14, 2003

Signature: 

(Authorized Signature)

Docket No.: 549222000101  
(PATENT)

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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Patent Application of:  
John O. RYAN

Application No.: 08/977,846

Group Art Unit: 3629

Filed: November 25, 1997

Examiner: T. Dixon

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INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT (IDS)

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Dear Sir:

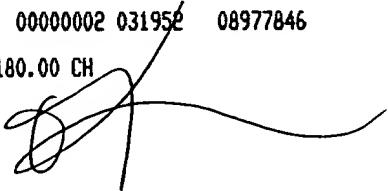
Pursuant to 37 CFR 1.56, the attention of the Patent and Trademark Office is hereby directed to the references listed on the attached PTO/SB/08. It is respectfully requested that the information be expressly considered during the prosecution of this application, and that the references be made of record therein and appear among the "References Cited" on any patent to issue therefrom.

This Information Disclosure Statement is filed more than three months after the U.S. filing date, OR more than three months after the date of entry of the national stage of a PCT application, AND after the mailing date of the first Office Action on the merits, whichever occurs first, but before the mailing date of a Final Rejection or Notice of Allowance. This case is being appealed, but under 37 CFR 1.97(c)(2), this information disclosure statement is timely filed since there has been no final action.

A copy of each reference on PTO/SB/08 is attached.

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A full translation of the non-English language references is enclosed.

While the information and references disclosed in this Information Disclosure Statement may be "material" pursuant to 37 CFR 1.56, it is not intended to constitute an admission that any patent, publication or other information referred to therein is "prior art" for this invention unless specifically designated as such.

In accordance with 37 CFR 1.97(g), the filing of this Information Disclosure Statement shall not be construed to mean that a search has been made or that no other material information as defined in 37 CFR 1.56(a) exists. It is submitted that the Information Disclosure Statement is in compliance with 37 CFR 1.98 and the Examiner is respectfully requested to consider the listed references.

The United States Patent and Trademark Office is hereby authorized to charge \$180.00 for the Information Disclosure Statement fee under 37 C.F.R. §1.17(p) as set forth in the accompanying fee transmittal sheet.

Dated: May 14, 2003

Respectfully submitted,

By 

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